



San Diego City Attorney **MICHAEL J. AGUIRRE**

NEWS RELEASE

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CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE RECOVERS CLOSE TO \$5-MILLION FROM CONTRACTOR FOR DEFECTIVE WORK

San Diego, CA: The San Diego City Attorney's Office recovered \$4.95 million from one of its contractors for defective installation of the Rose Canyon Truck Sewer Project. On Monday, the City Council authorized the settlement of the lawsuit brought by the City of San Diego against PCL Civil Constructors, Inc.

Michael McGuinness, Chief Deputy City Attorney and leader of the City Attorney's Construction Litigation Team, handled the case for the City. According to McGuinness, the contractor failed to properly weld the plastic-lined pipe joints as required by the contract specifications. PCL and its welding subcontractor disputed the City's claims. The damages recovered represent costs expended to date in analyzing the condition, performing a repair of a section of the pipe, and the estimated cost to repair the remainder of the welds.

"The City's investment in the creation of the Construction Litigation Team continues to exemplify the City Attorney's efforts to protect the City against poor contractor workmanship and efficiently use its own resources to recover damages for the City," said City Attorney Michael Aguirre.

The Rose Canyon Trunk Sewer Pipeline runs from a point just south of the Rose Canyon Creek Bridge along Sante Fe Street through Rose Canyon to where it joins an existing sewer main just north of the North City Water Reclamation Plant. The pipeline is designed to carry approximately 80 million gallons per day of flow from the North City area and Pump Station 64 south to the Morena Boulevard Interceptor and eventually to the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The City discovered the condition in August, 2002, approximately seven years after the trunk sewer was put into service. A complete video assessment was performed by the Metropolitan Wastewater Department which revealed that weld failures were occurring throughout the approximately 4.5 mile pipeline. Although, the plastic lining at many welds is failing, there is no evidence of leakage of the pipe as the underlying concrete pipe and joint gaskets have not been affected by the liner's failure.

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